

## COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

**April 29, 2003**

**5:30 PM**

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen O'Neil, Shea, Smith, Lopez

Absent: Alderman Wihby

Messrs: Ron Johnson, Sam Maranto, Kevin Sheppard, Bob MacKenzie, Deputy Chief Monnelly, Fred Rusczyk, Alderman Forest

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Discussion and recommendations of the proposed FY04 CIP budget regarding projects to be expedited. Departmental requests for projects to be expedited are as follows:

### Highway

710304 Residential 50/50 Program	\$ 100,000.00
711504 Major R.O.W. Projects	3,080,000.00
711604 Municipal Infrastructure Program	525,000.00
711704 Notre Dame Bridge	350,000.00
810504 City Space Improvements	885,000.00
712104 Sewer Infrastructure	200,000.00
711404 Motorized Equipment Replacement	2,125,000.00

### Parks, Recreation & Cemetery

510204 Recreation Facility Improvements	
511404 Clem Lemire Sports Complex – MHS	

### Traffic

712004 Parking Facilities Maintenance	275,000.00
711304 Parking Facilities Inspection Report	47,000.00

Chairman O'Neil asked do we need to read the requests?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson replied no. The only thing I note is that the last item listed, Parking Facilities Inspection Report, was withdrawn because it's a cash project.

Chairman O'Neil stated just to go through these, I believe on Parks & Rec., Ron, the Clem Lemire project does not need to expedited. Is that correct?

Ron Johnson replied I spoke with Sam earlier. We do have somebody to start the design as we discussed this afternoon, but by July the other money will be available.

Chairman O'Neil stated so that doesn't need to be expedited and the Traffic/Parking Facilities Maintenance, 711804 is the correct number there. Kevin that's your understanding that does not need to be expedited either?

Kevin Sheppard replied correct.

Chairman O'Neil stated we can remove those two items. Kevin do you have any comments from the Highway Department?

Mr. Sheppard stated no specific comments unless there are questions on certain projects today.

Chairman O'Neil stated I am handing out what the Deputy Director has recommended to us on the bonding for motorized equipment replacement. If you'd like to take a look at that. He included the cash just for informational purposes. We do have a cash amount but we won't be working on that tonight. It's just for informational purposes.

Chairman O'Neil stated I spoke with Director Ludwig and Chief Kane and they're both represented here. Deputy Director Johnson and Assistant Chief Monnelly are here and they are comfortable with what's here from their departments and I believe Kevin you're comfortable with this.

Mr. Sheppard stated the reason I brought this in tonight is, there's actually State bids that we buy a lot of equipment off of and the State bids actually end within the next week or so. If you look at our list, three-ton dumps and packers, we'd actually buy off the State bids versus going out to bid. That way we're looking at trying to get approval on this MER list by both Fire and Highway and also Parks & Rec. That way we can also put bids out on this equipment on the streets. It takes six to nine months to get a piece of equipment, but for fire truck insurers it's a lot longer than that. The quicker we can get these out for bids, the better off we are.

Chairman O'Neil asked any questions on the motorized equipment.

Alderman Lopez asked on the Police here...

Chairman O'Neil interjected no that's cash and that's just for information only. We will be taking that up at some point. We're only dealing with the bonds. Kevin just wanted to put that in there so we have some idea of what the departments are requesting.

Alderman Lopez asked did anybody look at the ideas that Ted had in reference to bonding vehicles under other special programs?

Chairman O'Neil replied I don't think anything's happened. I don't think there's been any action of this committee yet.

Mr. Sheppard stated I think we're going to be working with the Finance Department. I know Randy had mentioned getting together with us to work at setting a schedule for replacement of City vehicles. Are you talking about Police vehicles?

Alderman Lopez replied I was talking about vehicles in general. They said there was a new type of bond that they could do because this is a City and I was wondering if anybody had followed it up.

Alderman Shea stated the MTA buses. When the School Department met with us, didn't they say there was...?

Chairman O'Neil replied I don't know if there's any clarification. Bob do you know or Sam on that?

Sam Maranto stated these are public transit buses not school buses.

Alderman Forest would this answer my question, or would this be...

Chairman O'Neil asked are you on the cash thing? Again, I think the point is, from Kevin, it's a reference of the department request and their priorities. We have \$120,000, which isn't going to go very far. We've got to work through that issue a little bit over the next month or so and figure out what we can do there.

Kevin Sheppard stated I just want to mention on the cash. I've got a couple of stars next to vehicle maintenance. \$50,000 is the first item listed. That's needed. That's for the maintenance of the City's fleet other than the Highway Department. The City's fleet is actually going to be maintained through the transit authority. Out of that \$120,000 that's minus \$50,000 already. The Building Department had a per diem last year. They put in for \$15,000 as part of the budget cuts last year and some money was taken out of the cash, so that vehicle was approved but then got eliminated through the budget cuts. So I stabbed that one also. That just may be something the Committee might want to consider.

Chairman O'Neil stated we have some work to do on the cash side of where we are. As you recall, we just put a fire van out to pasture a week or so ago, it wouldn't pass inspection.

Alderman Lopez asked all of these departments have signed off on this, right?

Bob MacKenzie replied our department did not spot check. Normally that's done between Highway and the Mayor's office.

Chairman O'Neil asked Kevin are we missing any State bids with regard to cash vehicles in the next week or two?

Mr. Sheppard replied I'm not too sure we'll be able to jump into any of the State bids at this point. I'm not too sure. I know the Police Chief at one time said that he needed money quickly but I'm not sure what their time schedule is.

Chairman O'Neil asked do either Parks or Fire jump in on State bids for light duty vehicles?

Mr. Sheppard replied we have used the State bids for one of our panel vans.

Chairman O'Neil asked so there's no concern that we may miss any timeline right now on the cash appropriation?

Mr. Sheppard answered no.

Chairman O'Neil asked any questions on any of the other items listed?

Alderman Lopez stated on account 810504, \$600,000 is for the Rines Center. How much money is that for the Rines Center that is supposed to be used in terms of the operations?

Mr. MacKenzie replied we just determined the final cost estimate. The architect has been working with the various departments. I know Mr. Ruscsek is here from the Health Department. The total price tag for doing everything as we determined this afternoon is \$1.42 million. We could provide a presentation. There's a lot of specialty items needed. For example, the Health Department clinics. That makes repairs, replaces the boiler, puts security systems in. Roughly 75 percent of the building is going to be reconstructed in order to meet the needs of the Health Department, Welfare Department, Archives, and OYS.

Alderman Lopez stated maybe a presentation, just maybe a breakdown. Another question is turnkey operation. Everybody's supposed to move right in and it didn't happen. It might have been another decision made at that time. Main fire alarms \$135,000, that's all under the Library?

Mr. MacKenzie replied yes.

Alderman Lopez asked that's brand new?

Mr. MacKenzie replied it's basically a new system. I don't know if...we have a Fire Department representative here who probably doesn't know.

Alderman Lopez asked they don't have an alarm system now Chief?

Deputy Chief Monnelly replied they have boxes tied to our building but as far as internal goes I can't tell you what they have in there right now.

Chairman O'Neil stated for some reason I think whatever's there now is sub par and there was a fire there, wasn't there? The Fire Department did a great job putting that out, but I understand that this is to bring the building up to current standards, so I think it needs to be done.

Deputy Chief Monnelly stated it was also number one priority on building maintenance.

Alderman Lopez stated the \$100,000 in security measures as I understand, and we've got some bond balances that we're looking at on the security measures. I was told that there is \$20,000 in there for the City Clerk's office. Is that true? In this \$100,000.

Mr. MacKenzie asked for security?

Alderman Lopez replied yes.

Mr. MacKenzie answered not in that proposed amount. There was some small amounts the City Clerk had requested from an existing bond balance that they wanted to use, partly for fixing the audio system in the chambers and partly for other security issues around City Hall.

Alderman Lopez asked Carol can you help me on that? Because Leo told me that he put in for \$20,000.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson replied it was my understanding that he had had a conversation with Mr. Robidas and part of the bigger project was to put some cameras on the outside of City Hall and it was included somehow in that larger project. And it was about a \$20,000 cost as I understood it and I'm getting that second hand.

Alderman Lopez asked could you double-check it then?

Mr. MacKenzie asked do we have the descriptions here? We don't have the descriptions here do we?

Chief Monnelly stated we have the descriptions for \$488,000.

Mr. MacKenzie asked for all of the security requests?

Chief Monnelly replied I don't know if he had it down that defined, but I'll ask him.

Chairman O'Neil stated we're looking for a breakdown of this \$100,000.

Alderman Lopez stated and the other \$50,000.

Mr. MacKenzie stated that would normally be contingency for the various projects. That's roughly ten percent or a little bit more, or a little bit less than ten percent contingency for those projects.

Chairman O'Neil stated Bob just review, you said the price to do the Rines Center is \$1.4 million. How much do we have already?

Mr. MacKenzie replied yes that is the amount. We don't have enough already. What we're doing, and I know it's a little premature, but we are trying to look at the bond balances because we have to expend them within the next six months. By next week's meeting when you're meeting with the Committee on Accounts, we will have those balances and that is the quickest project that is going to happen, the Rines building. But we are shy monies in that. We haven't tabulated the total but we're going to have to add more than the \$600,000 shown in the CIP to cover all of the expenses.

Alderman Lopez asked Fred is there anything going to the Rines Center under the grants that you've received, and have you calculated utilizing those grants for anything?

Fred Rusczyk replied actually I think that total amount doesn't take into account that the Health Department is looking at \$165,000 likely available to help offset some of that cost. The other challenge is when you look at the cost. When the plans were first done up for the Rines Center the Health Department had a lot of stuff that we lost in

the fire. We had all of our countertops and everything in our clinic rooms; we purposefully had all movables so that we could move them to wherever we were going. So all of that was lost and there wasn't insurance coverage to cover setbacks. There's a whole bunch of little bits and pieces that I think add up to this. Certainly we need to have, and we always did, with or without bio-terrorism in mind, in our clinical setting we would need to have air that is not a negative pressure and have it filtered, so we don't have tuberculosis or other factors. Some of that's been built in. We're working to recover the costs. I think the heating plant was a challenge in all this as well. When it's all said and done, we're going to end up with a state-of-the-art facility. Because of the layout there, we're going to be able to recover additional revenues and we have in our budget \$30,000 additional revenues per year. While the cost may be more than was initially projected, I think when you look at all the different aspects and scenarios that have happened, it all makes sense. There's no frills.

Alderman Lopez stated in the bottom line, we're looking at a \$600,000 bond to use and the balance of some of the bonds you want to take and put over at the Rines Center. Is it possible that we would be able to use some of the other bonds? If we bond all this money, and you come up with \$165,000 that you can offset, and give us \$165,000 back, is that what you're saying?

Mr. MacKenzie replied well we haven't quite hit the amount of money that we need yet. We're still trying to figure out how to make that amount of money work. We are factoring in...we've been able to figure out now what money he has and how it can be allocated. Because some of that money's not in the building, some of that is for working on your health vans, storage of the vans. So it looks as though roughly \$130,000 of the money he talked about would be included in the construction budget.

Alderman Lopez stated I just want to make my final point as this. The way I understood the grant, the way you presented it, any cost whatsoever by moving those people in there, or creating anything for the grants was supposed to be paid for, and I hope the City is not paying for it.

Mr. Ruscsek stated the way we got the public health affair of this money, and it was before we were moving to the Rines Center, is we knew we were moving. We built in some enhancements that typically federal money won't pay for construction items, but they've allowed us to put the money in the grant and I've got a series of hoops to go through. We've been aggressive in trying to get outside money to support the work that we need to do, but if there was no outside money and we're to establish a Health Department set up for the problems of the day, tuberculosis and now SARS and others, there would be costs that we would have to incur as a community just like health departments across the country. The people that we're hiring...part of the City's cost is space and in return we were able to get a lot more. I can't get everything offset, but

again this improves our capabilities. The bottom line for public health is a few hundred thousand dollars less in terms of City contribution than it was just a couple of years ago.

Alderman Lopez stated if you could give us a final report on the grant portion of what you've done with the grant portion money versus the City money.

Mr. Rusczek stated and then the other piece that adds to that now includes archive storage and other things that weren't initially considered. It's not just the Health Department. The Health Department is probably half or so of the cost of the Rines Center.

Alderman Shea stated I have a question regarding the timing for Office of Youth Services and Welfare to relocate. Do they have to engage another year for payment of the rental facilities?

Mr. MacKenzie replied latest estimate that we have is the first of November. I think they were planning on through September, but the current estimates we have on reconstruction are through November. So we are a couple of months off in terms of rent, and those departments now know that there are a couple so they are going to look to see how to fund those. The two other agencies that are renting are on a tenant-at-will, which is a monthly basis.

Chairman O'Neil asked Bob what about the third quarter? Is that being taken care of? The air conditioning?

Mr. MacKenzie replied yes. The project estimate cost includes about \$95,000 to put in a heating and ventilation system that will protect the archives of the City.

Chairman O'Neil asked so we can go forward moving the records up there?

Mr. MacKenzie replied yes.

Alderman Lopez stated looking at 711504 if you could help me out. We're looking at \$3,080,000, we've got \$2,120,000 here on 711504, and I just want to make sure...

Mr. Rusczek stated the \$3,080,000 is the State funding.

Mr. MacKenzie stated if I could Mr. Chair since he brings up that question. We do have a slightly revised listing of the expedited projects because there was a couple of things missing on the other sheet. For example, on a couple of projects there's a State portion or a Federal portion along without bond money that would expedite. If I could hand this around and try to explain the differences. I know it's difficult when you get



different forms. The first one, the recreation facility improvements leveraged, this includes both the State grants and the local bond match. You'll notice on the left hand side we have the first number ending in 2004, was the proposed 2004, we do have to expedite that and change the number to a 2003 number so we can expend it this year. That's why there's two numbers. What was in the CIP and what is proposed to be in the 2003. So you will see on the first project there was \$550,000 in bond and that is being leveraged by \$912,000 in expedited funds. In order to start expending, we have to be matching with State funds and both of those should move forward. The next one is City Motorized Equipment, is the same as on your sheet. The next one Major Right-of-Way Improvements, there is a difference here. The one that you have shows \$3,080,000 that's actually the federal portion of the Granite Street project. The bond amount for these right-of-way improvement projects is \$1,120,000. That's where you were confused Alderman Lopez. The next one is Municipal Infrastructure Program. You had it separately listed residential, sidewalk 50/50, but the CIP program lumped several together so that it could be one bond project, and that's \$525,000. So you do see that residential, sidewalk 50/50 is within that program. Lastly, the Notre Dame Bridge, \$350,000 is the same as on the listing. We were not recommending at this time the Clem Lemire Sports Complex or the parking facilities projects, which we didn't see that there was a pressing need to expedite those before July 1. There are two others. We can add the sewer infrastructure, that's actually an EPD project. We were not aware that had to be expedited but we can. But I did want to talk briefly about City space improvements.

Chairman O'Neil interjected let's stick to the sewer construction. Kevin do you believe it's in our best interest to expedite any of this?

Mr. Sheppard replied yes, that was on my list to expedite. We have actually already taken bids for that project, so we're just waiting for that.

Chairman O'Neil stated that's 712104 and that's Okay to expedite.

Mr. MacKenzie stated and we will add a 2003 number to that, if that's appropriate.

Chairman O'Neil asked explain that to me again. What we are doing by putting 2003 numbers with them.

Mr. MacKenzie replied if it's an 2004 number and part of the 2004, we can not expend money before July 1<sup>st</sup>. So to expend money before July 1<sup>st</sup>, we have to amend our current CIP and give it a 2003 number and then we can expend money before July 1<sup>st</sup>. That's what we call expediting.

Alderman Lopez asked that doesn't mean we have more bonding in 2004 does it?

Mr. MacKenzie replied no. We can't free up the money. And I did want to talk a little bit about City space improvements without it getting too jumbled. We didn't recommend it right at the present time because we're under mandate to expend some of the old bond balances. So we're going to take old bond balances to apply to the Rines, which meant we were going to decrease the price of City space improvements. Because inside City space improvements is \$600,000 for Rines. We were going to use old bond projects to pay that because that project is going to start in a couple of weeks.

Alderman Lopez stated now if we're going to do that you have to take into consideration some of the other projects that we have targeted and you agree to that?

Mr. MacKenzie replied yes. I'm sticking with the letter, that will come to the dual committees next week and what we would do, the \$600,000 that was in the City space will be moved over to Memorial Field, Clem Lemire Sports Complex. So I'm giving you a little heads up as to what's coming next week, but we're trying to meet all the mandates.

Alderman Lopez asked what about the \$500,000? Are you talking about the \$500,000 that Parks has in there for 2004?

Mr. MacKenzie replied that is going to stay.

Alderman Forest asked the same thing is going to occur with the Raco Theodore?

Mr. MacKenzie replied yes. Raco Theodore is in that listing to get a bond balance so that it can actually happen more quickly.

Chairman O'Neil stated the only question I had was, I had a brief conversation with Mr. Robidas. He seemed to be looking for some of that security money. I don't know if it's to make sure it's done this summer and waiting until July may cause problems. Has your staff had any discussions with him about it?

Mr. MacKenzie replied no we haven't. Again, when we reviewed the project and looked at it, it looks as though he can start in July. But what we can do today is if you'd like we can expedite the City space improvements for the lower amount.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I think \$100,000 is his request.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I would just reduce it by the Rines, so it would be at \$285,000, City space improvements. Reduce it by \$600,000, which is the Rines amount. It would be \$285,000.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I just want to clarify this for the record because we're not going to be too far away from the motion. To the list that you provided we would be adding the 810504 with a 2003 number ultimately, in the amount of \$285,000. Right?

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson continued and the sewer infrastructure, the 712104 is also being added for \$200,000. The ones on the list of the handout, those two are the only two that we're talking about at this point? I just want to make sure. And the \$285,000 is basically without the Rines Center, so you'll have to create a project without that in there.

Mr. MacKenzie replied correct. I'm sorry that was a little convoluted Mr. Chairman, but sometimes it has to be.

Chairman O'Neil asked any other comments on the expedited CIP?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson asked can I just lay out the motion for you?

Chairman O'Neil replied yes.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated basically the motion that you're going to do is to recommend that certain projects be expedited as listed, and in that process you will be recommending that those projects be removed from the FY2004 CIP resolution. You're actually recommending an amendment to the resolution. You'll delete them from the 2004 resolution and recommend that they be funded under the FY2003 CIP. And for that purpose bond resolutions will be introduced to the same meeting to accommodate these because it's going to be a two-week process again. Just so you understand, you're going to recommend to the Finance Committee directly that those projects be pulled out of one and that the board accept the other. We'll put the report on for referral to the Finance Committee because it's actually the Finance Committee that needs to amend the resolution. So when the board accepts that, the Finance Committee is going to have a whole bunch of actions to take, to take care of the resolutions. But I just want you to understand that because sometimes if I don't explain that on the committee level and then you see it on the board agenda, you say wait a minute, what are we doing here. Just so everybody understands, that the expedited basically means you have to amend the 2004 and you're going to introduce new projects in 2003.

Chairman O'Neil asked Kevin how does that help you with getting on a State bid?

Mr. Sheppard replied what we'll probably do is what we've done in past years is actually tell vendors and that has worked well with them. We've got 99 percent certainty that we're going to get it. We do have that one percent that we can get out if we have to.

Chairman O'Neil asked but from tonight it's only about a three week period Carol?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered right, in total. What you can do is part of your recommendation is to have the board approve or authorize the departments to order vehicles assigned into that bond project as part of the motion.

Chairman O'Neil asked Ron is that an issue to you guys, or waiting the three weeks? Are you okay with that?

Mr. Johnson replied no, we can wait.

Chairman O'Neil asked and it's only certain items Kevin that you...

Mr. Sheppard stated this gives us the 99 percent sure that we're going to get the money for those. I think we're okay.

On a motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to recommend an amendment to the FY2004 CIP resolution that certain projects be expedited as listed, and to further recommend that those projects be removed from the FY2004 CIP resolution and that they be funded under the FY2003 CIP.

Chairman O'Neil stated the only other thing is I know Alderman Forest wanted to bring up an issue tonight to get us to start thinking about.

Alderman Forest stated I made a comment last year and I'm doing it again. Police Department cruisers. I talked to the Finance Department yesterday and the day before about trying to use the Civic Contribution Fund, whatever is left in there, and I know the 2004 budget will replace whatever's there. Randy didn't get all my answers because he's not here. I asked Randy to find a way to take money to get them at least a few cruisers. They are getting expensive. When you replace three engines in the cars, if you do that to ten cars, you're paying maybe five times what the car is worth. It's better to get them some new ones. That's what I'm asking to see if we can find some money and get them some cars.

Chairman O'Neil stated if I may this is an issue that Carol is going to give us a little history on here. But this is a very important issue in the Police Department, it's becoming an issue in the Fire Department with some of their front line cash vehicles, and I think if you talk to some of the other departments even not necessarily on

emergencies services, they're running on some old, tired vehicles as well. We haven't done a very good job. We've done a lot of good things here over the years, but that's not been one of our brighter moments is handling cash vehicles.

Alderman Shea stated I know that this was brought up at a meeting that we can't use that reserve fund to fund vehicles, but if we juxtaposition some kind of situation whereby we could use some kind of funding that isn't that reserve fund for permanent types of vehicles or any kind of appropriation, and then use some of the CIP monies earmarked for something else. Maybe that might be one way of trying to at least get a couple of vehicles. I don't say ten, necessarily, but at least start a replacement process.

Chairman O'Neil stated and if I recall, the Finance Department believes that in about another year we're going to be in a much better situation. We'll be coming off, I know it's one of the things Carol's going to point out, the fiscal year conversion and that's going to free up some cash for us that would be very appropriate to get a dollar amount every year and not only Police and Fire, but Parks and Highway and Health and City Clerk, and whoever else has vehicles.

Alderman Forest stated I think that maybe what we should start thinking about is putting some money aside every year for all the departments. Replace vehicles as needed.

Chairman O'Neil stated that puts us a year out and it's not going to help us with the Police fleet that's in trouble right now.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I'm not speaking in support of the Chief, obviously I'm not lobbying for anybody, but what happened was when you had your fiscal year conversion, the CIP took a hit in that process. And that was because CIP was on a July basis for the most part anyway, and the City was under a municipal year, and the City went out to an 18 month operating budget for a one-cycle term. In the case of the CIP, it got hurt because in essence it didn't get the two year budget cycle going in that process. For one year, what happened was, the Chief realized he was going to miss the bidding process because there was no budget in that 18 month cycle, came into the board and said, I'd like to order them now so then they took them out of the next year's CIP, so it's been a revolving door ever since. He comes in early saying I need to get them and then he loses the funding in the next process and I think that there were probably a few lingering CIP programs, particularly in MER, that suffered that consequence. It never got caught up. There was never a chance for the board to address and that I think that happened in some instances. Every year never looks like a good year to do it. But that's what transpired and that's why they're continuously playing catch up and ten vehicles is a lot of vehicles.

Alderman Lopez stated I think if we could just do a follow up to Ted Gatsas' remark in reference to that bond. If we go back to this and find out what type of bond that is, and maybe we could send a communication to Finance to give us a update on it, because he seemed to know what he was talking about. Because we do receive State money and if we can do the bonding for some of these vehicles. I'd like to see somebody follow it up and make sure that we're not missing something here.

Chairman O'Neil asked Bob can you follow up on what Alderman Gatsas said. I remember him talking something about that. I don't remember the details of it though.

Mr. MacKenzie stated if I could also note Mr. Chairman, the car portion of MER has never been in the CIP process. It's always been it's own little line item in the operating budget and it seems like as things have gotten tough it's just simply been squeezed out. The board could consider whether next year as part of the CIP process they want to put it there, because sometimes it doesn't get squeezed out as quickly. We've had two years now where there's really been no money for police cars or fire vehicles and there has to be a way around that because once you get to play catch up, you're well behind the eight ball. Maybe next year you could consider that as a board.

Alderman Shea asked who does that? Do you do that? Or do you recommend to us that we recommend it to you? I mean, who is in charge of the process?

Mr. MacKenzie replied the Mayor identifies the form of the budget. I suspect the board could direct the Mayor next year to place it...rather than it being a simple line item in the operating budget, to put that in the CIP process.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated or this committee could recommend that in the future it be budgeted.

Alderman Shea asked why don't we do that tonight?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson replied yes, you could do that as a separate motion and we could put a separate report on the agenda.

Alderman Shea stated if we don't, the Mayor is going to make out his budget and when we find out about it...

Deputy City Clerk Johnson asked for the next cycle you're saying. Not this cycle.

Alderman Lopez stated I don't think that we can direct the Mayor.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I'm not saying to direct the Mayor, the recommendation to the board is that it be budgeted in that fashion and then it becomes part of the record.

Chairman O'Neil stated Bob makes a great point. We don't seem to get so much in a hole with them bonded because it does end up in CIP, but it's in the cash that we... Is there a motion to that effect?

On a motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to recommend that the MER cash account be placed into the CIP in the future.

Mr. MacKenzie stated Mr. Chair if I could take the opportunity to bring up one other small issue and that's Manchester Emergency House. I think it was left in the public's eye that the City was not helping them at all and that's far from true. Could I just take a minute and update the board on that? The paper seemed to be saying that the City didn't help MEH, but we actually provide them and the Welfare Department's budget provides most of their funds. This year, for example, before we looked at whether to fund certain capital improvements or offering through CIP, we verified that it was at least \$163,000 in the Welfare Department, at least, budgeted to MEH. That is far in excess what other non-profit agencies get for operating services. Clearly there was funding, \$163,000.

Chairman O'Neil asked in fiscal year 2003 or the recommended 2004?

Mr. MacKenzie answered proposed for 2004 in the Welfare Department budget. In the Welfare budget its called Management Services. Once you add operating monies from Federal sources in the CIP, there are strings attached. For example, if you're using City monies, and someone comes from another community and uses services, we can actually go back to that community and get reimbursement for those housing costs. If its federal funds, we can not do that. Federal funds say you take anybody from any part of the country, so we don't have a chance for reimbursement. We have tried to use funds and MEH in the past, primarily for rehab of their building, which are CIP funds from HUD are well directed towards that, and we'd prefer to do that. But I didn't want to leave on the record as the paper suggested that there was simply no funding from the City towards MEH. That is not true.

Chairman O'Neil asked was there some confusion? Is there some confusion do you believe by MEH?

Mr. MacKenzie replied I'm not sure what the confusion would be. Right now most of their monies come from Welfare. Last year we funded them some capital projects through the CIP, which were good to be used for that building. They asked for operating monies this year; I'm not sure what the confusion was. Most of their budget comes from the Welfare Department.

Alderman Lopez stated just in conversation, you might want to sit down with Paul Marco because, Jeff is saying one thing, and I understand this is exactly what you said now, but over the past years we've given them anywhere from \$20,000-\$30,000 in order to operate different things or fix things up and this management service I think Paul is saying that he doesn't have that money to do that. There's some confusion there. If you could sit down with the Director and maybe get back to us because there is something missing that I don't understand.

Mr. MacKenzie stated again, if they have repairs, we've actually brought the building up to pretty good shape. We've redone windows, siding, roof, so if they had made capital requests that would have been something much easier to fund and wouldn't have brought as many strings attached.

Alderman Lopez asked if he needs the money beyond the emergency situations, he can charge Welfare?

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes. That's what he does.

Chairman O'Neil stated it might be appropriate on this one, because this could become crazy, why don't we get a motion to ask staff so that we have the record and we're keeping track...

On a motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted that a representative from the CIP Committee meet with the Welfare Director to get a complete report on MEH and bring it back to the Committee.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee